Scarborough Public Library

Letters of Support



January 27, 2000

To Members of the Maine Library Commission:

I am pleased to support the enclosed application for a New Century Community Library Grant.

"Scarborough Crossroads" is an exciting example of community-wide cooperation. Groups with formal and informal non-profit status such as service clubs and government committees have joined with youth groups, churches, booster clubs, and the Historical Society to gather at the virtual community crossroads. The business community is a participant both through financial and in-kind support. The library is proud to be a leader in this effort as the literal and virtual meeting place. Our grant requests the funds to assist with the further **nurturing** and construction of this meeting place.

The grant obviously fulfills a need within our immediate community. It is a need demonstrated by the participants who. have already given their time to assist in planning. The enthusiasm with which the members of many community groups gathered information within a very short timeframe to support this grant application is a tribute to the importance they place on the project.

The Scarborough Public Library has proven itself a leader in sharing its professional skills with others in the library community. We anticipate continuing in this role with the development of a "cookbook" for other libraries and their communities to follow so they may prepare their own community web presence.

Finally, I believe this project contains all the elements described by members of the Legislature when they approved funding for this initiative. We have formed partnerships with our cultural, business, social and governmental organizations for the betterment of our community. Our physical, political community benefits through a greater presence within our virtual, global community created through the World Wide Web.

Sincerely,

Mancy E. Crowell, Library Director



January 24, 2000

To the Maine Library Commission:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is with pleasure and pride that the Scarborough Public Library submits the enclosed request for a New Century Community Grant.

The project we have described will support the mission of our Library to be an informational, educational and recreational center for the town of Scarborough. It also addresses a goal within our long-range plan to respond to appropriate technologies for the delivery of public services.

The "Scarborough Crossroads" project forms partnerships with a diverse gathering of large and small community organizations. The Library and the project participants are excited by this diversity and believe it will provide a model for other communities to follow.

Our library served as a test site for the Maine School and Library Network. In that role, our library and its staff made a significant contribution by demonstrating the power of the Inter-net to our local community and our professional colleagues throughout the state. This project is a natural extension of that role.

We look forward to the Commission's approval of our request.

Sincerely,

Shirley Cullen Barber

President, Board of Trustees

Skuly Cullen Backer

January 17,2000 Scarborough Lions Club P. 0. Box 644 Scarborough, ME 04070-0644

To whom it may concern,

I am the first vice-president of the Scarborough.Lions' Club and have served as President of Scarborough Crossroads this past year. My club was one of the founding organizations. The concept behind Crossroads was to have a single location where, eventually, all of the service groups and civic organizations in Scarborough, could post information about ourselves, for anyone in town or the world to access. At the. same time it gives all of the service organizations in Scarborough the opportunity to work together for the good of the citizens in our town. As we have worked together to help each new group build and put their web site on the internet, we have begun to work together as these service groups have never done in the history of the town. Several of our groups, the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary have set a date to hold our first joint meeting, at the Lions den in February, to discuss working on a service project together. Scarborough will realize another benefit from Scarborough Crossroads.

Our Lions' web site has been a true treasure for us. We are linked to all other Maine Lions clubs on the net as well as Lions Clubs International, our sister club in Scarborough, England and a Lions club in France. We are open to the world. We have had a couple of wonderful experiences from our site. Since I write our club newsletter, I place it up on our site each month. Last August, I received an e-mail from a man in Oslo, Norway, who had seen the newsletter on our web site and wanted to know of one of the Lions listed with a September birthday could possibly have been the same man that he had stayed with 36 years ago when he had been in Scarborough as an exchange student from Norway. He gave details of this person, and yes, it was the same man. They had lost touch with each other many years ago. He was quite thrilled when I e-mailed him back that it was the same man, and that I had passed his message along. They have since written to each other, by mail. Right after we first put our site up, I received an e-mail fro a pair of students in France. Sandra was a law student and Julien was an engineering

Memo

To: NewCenturyGrantApplication Committee

From: Terry Snyder

Date: 1/26/00

Re: Grant request from Scarborough Crossroads.

As incoming chairman of Scarborough Crossroads, I would like to express my support for the grant that we are submitting. I've been involved with Scarborough Crossroads for about a year and in that time I've seen on more than one occasion the enthusiasm from an individual and an organization as they find out that they can have a web site that they can develop and control.

In my case, I came to Crossroads because I had heard that it offered low cost web site hosting which was critical for the site I wanted to develop for the Scarborough Soccer Club. Since that time we've had over 1200 visits. The web site was instrumental inproviding advertising for our primary fund-raiser – a soccer tournament in August. This year we had teams from as far away as Rhode Island, due in large part to our web exposure.

The members of Scarborough Crossroads range from skilled computer and technical experts to enthusiastic neophytes who are still enjoying the newly found ways of the web. At this point we have touched a small percentage of the nonprofit and service organizations within Scarborough.

With the grant moneys, for which we are applying, we believe we can greatly increase our penetration, provide a more stable hosting infrastructure, and continue to build the sense of community within our town. We believe these are goals worthy of consideration.

Respectfully,

TerrySnyder Chairman-electofScarboroughCrossroads.



Oak Hill Grange # 104

PO Box 6758 Scarborough, ME 04070



December 29, 1999

Scarborough Public Library 48 Gorham Road Scarborough, Maine 04074

To whom this may concern:

My name is Elizabeth (Betty) Huff. I am a member of the Oakhill Grange in Scarborough, I am also a member of the Scarborough Cross Roads Web Site Chair for our Grange. We are interested in new members and working with other Community Service Organizations in our home town and have found the Scarborough Cross Roads to be the perfect source for doing this. We have been able to get our web site on line and get our name out into the community. We have gained new memberships and benefit greatly from gathering with other groups to exchange knowledge in web site designing. I do hope the Library will be able to help us with and ISP in the near future so we can continue with our community service projects and information share.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth (Betty) Huff

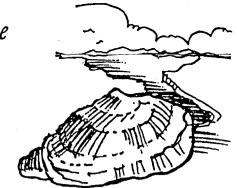


Town of Scarborough, Maine

Shellfish Conservation Committee

P. O. BOX 360

SCARBOROUGH, MAINE 04074
TELEPHONE **883-4301**



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Scarborough Shellfish Conservation Committee and the Scarborough Coastal Pollution Committee to voice our support of the Scarborough Public Library's grant application to the New Century Community Grant Program. The web pages we have on the Crossroads site serve members of this community and beyond with pertinent information on our shellfish management activities and water quality monitoring efforts. Many coastal communities throughout the United States are encountering similiar problems and the ability to share information is invaluable.

Our monthly Crossroads meetings provide a forum to interact with other civic and volunteer not for profit groups to work as a whole towards specific goals. The groups I represent heartily support the concept of being able to access the Crossroads site and then be able to log onto all the divergent organizations and all the information they provide. In closing, I thank you for your consideration of this grant proposal.

Sincerely

John K.Lyon/Chair

Scarborough Shellfish Conservation Committee

Vice-Chair

Scarborough Coastal Pollution Committee

Scarborough Rotary Club

Established 1960

"Rotary Pioneer"

John M. Murphy, President EUen Fit-b-Byrne, Vice President Alan K Cowie, Secretary Jack B. Cowie, Jr., Treasurer



Meetings: 200 a.m. Dimitris Restaurant 185 US Route #1 Scarborough, ME 04074

District #7780 Governor: Michael K. McGovern. Cave Elizabeth. ME

Distriction Nominee: Elias Thomas III, Acton, ME

January 18,2000

To Whom It May Concern:

The Scarborough Rotary Club is the newest member of the Scarborough Crossroad organization. In the short time, August 1999, we have been affiliated with this wonderful organization the Rotary Club has achieved the following benefits:

- a With the guidance of the crossroads members, a web site for the Scarborough Rotary Club
 - @ Scarborough maine corn/rotary
- b. The Rotary Club was able to afford this web site because of the help and low cost benefits of the Crossroads.
- c The Rotary Club has been able to make contact and plans with other service organizations (primarily LIONS CLUB for a joint meeting and potential joint service projects for the Scarborough Community.
- e. The Scarborough Public Library offers an ideal setting for this service oriented Scarborough Crossroads group. If you will, a Town Hall Type of Meeting place for the service organizations of this community.

As the tepresentative from the Scarborough Rotary Club, I heartily endorse the plans for the Scarborough Crossroads for the future. It will provide that much needed venue for the future in Scarborough, Maine.

Sincerely.

Jack B. Cowie r_

Treasurer and Board of Directors

Scarborough Rotary Club

P.O. Box 6455

Scarborough, ME 04070-6455



January 20,2000

Dear New Century Library Program,

The Scarborough Land Conservation Trust (SLCT) is just one of the many non-profit organizations featured on the Crossroads web site. We are a private organization whose mission is to preserve natural areas within Scarborough for the benefit and enjoyment of the public...and we have benefited tremendously from our presence on the world wide web.

The direct benefits SLCT has received as a result of our presence on the Crossroads site are:

- 1) gaining new members
- 2) gaining a new community group partner for land stewardship projects
- 3) better communication with our membership, especially our seasonal residents
- 4) support from other Crossroads members to:
 - a) promote the site
 - b) help each other with the technical aspects of web site development
- 5) a new partnership with Scarborough Coastal Pollution Committee for a conservation project where our interests converge.

Cumulatively, these benefits go a long way toward helping SLCT fulfill its mission.

However, it has been the Scarborough Public Library that has been the key to facilitating the effort that makes the Crossroads web site such a valuable community resource; something SLCTcould not have undertaken on its own.

The Scarborough Library continues to host the Crossroads monthly meeting provide resources such as printed materials, a high speed intemet connection, public access workstations and personnel able to guide the Crossroads group in technical issues as they need to be addressed.

On behalf of the Scarborough Land Conservation Trust, I support the Scarborough Public Library's request for a web server and software for the Crossroads web site. I'm confident that after reviewing the application and site for yourself, you will agree that our site *does* provide a significant public service.

Sincerely,

Laurene Swaney, President

Scarborough Land Conservation Trust